

in the field as the more common Blue-and-white Swallow (Lentino 1988, Parker & O'Neill 1980, Turner 1989). The 1951 specimen confirms that possibility. It is the first to be collected in the state of Trujillo, and represents a northern extension of this species' range of approximately 140 km.

Both professional and amateur ornithologists should be alert to the possibility of this bird's presence and look more closely at small blue and white swallows seen in open areas of primary forest above 1550 m (Lentino 1988, Parker & O'Neill 1980). All additional observations are sure to significantly augment our meagre understanding of the distribution and ecology of this swallow.

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Additional records of and notes on the Unicoloured Thrush *Turdus haplochrous*, a little known Bolivian endemic

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The Unicoloured Thrush *Turdus haplochrous* is an enigmatic species, known previously from only six specimens and one sight record relating

to four localities in the lowlands of Bolivia, and is regarded consequently as an ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book species (Collar *et al.* 1992). The type locality is Palmarito (16°49'S, 62°37'W), Rio San Julián, Chiquitos province in Santa Cruz department, where a male and female (adults) were secured by Franz Steinbach in 1918 (Todd 1931, O'Neill 1976). Steinbach collected two further birds (both male) in 1944, from along the Río Mamoré, Marbán Province, in Beni, some 250–275 km northwest of Palmarito (O'Neill 1976). The remaining two specimens (male and female) were obtained in 1984 from open woodland 7 km southeast of Trinidad (also Beni) by C. G. Schmitt, who succeeded in recording calls (see Hardy & Parker 1985) of these or other individuals that were seen. The sight record refers to one bird observed and tape-recorded by T. A. Parker in September 1989 in semi-deciduous woodland near La Junta, located between Santa Rosa de la Roca and Florida just outside the Noell Kempff Mercado National Park (Santa Cruz) (J. M. Bates, pers. comm.). We report here on new records of this species, which was observed, and one individual trapped, during the course of survey work (White *et al.* 1993) in the Estación Biológica del Beni (EBB), Beni (Miranda 1991), the headquarters of which lie 180 km to the west of Trinidad.

All the records were obtained in a small area, no more than 2×1 km in extent, of seasonally flooded riverine forest (*várzea*) bordering the south bank of the Río Manique, approximately 70 km northeast of San Borja (14°25'S, 66°15'W; *c.* 200 m altitude). The understory consisted of 5–7 m tall trees, but in places the forest was quite open and consequently the undergrowth well developed; there were few trees whose height exceeded 30 m. *T. haplochrous* was observed in the uppermost branches of the youngest trees, but was trapped in dense undergrowth (3–4 m in height). On 7 September, three thrushes were watched chasing each other, one of which was identified conclusively as *T. haplochrous*. In the evening, 1.5 km away, one individual (sex not determined) was trapped; it was held overnight and then released. Further sightings were obtained on 10 and 16 September (one and two birds respectively). In the area where *T. haplochrous* was recorded, Hauxwell's Thrush *T. hauxwelli* occurred also and was apparently more numerous, 10–20 individuals being seen in the upper branches of young trees and seven individuals trapped in mist-nets where the single *T. haplochrous* was taken. A third member of the genus, the Creamy-bellied Thrush *T. amaurochalinus*, which is widely distributed in Beni, was relatively abundant, but this species is sufficiently distinct in the field and thus presented no additional difficulties in species separation.

Description highlighting differences from T. hauxwelli

The following points were noted, serving to distinguish *T. haplochrous* from the rather similar and sympatric *T. hauxwelli* (Ridgely & Tudor 1989), whose song is similar (Hardy & Parker 1985). Upperparts olive-brown and underparts uniformly sandy-brown, both darker (especially the remiges and rectrices) than in *T. hauxwelli*, which is more rufescent above; an orange tint, however, was apparent on the

underwing coverts. The inner margins of the remiges exhibited no contrast; in *T. hauxwelli* they are buffy-white (Todd 1931). The pale underparts of *T. hauxwelli* are given as a distinguishing feature by Ridgely & Tudor (1989), who comment, however, that the whitish lower belly and undertail coverts may occasionally be washed with buff. Indeed, several *T. hauxwelli* that we examined showed relatively little white below. The undertail coverts of *T. haplochrous* displayed narrow light brown margins; the feathers immediately surrounding the vent were cream-coloured. The sandy-brown streaking on the creamy throat was far less conspicuous than in *T. hauxwelli*. The eye was enclosed by a complete, but narrow, dull orange eye-ring and had a brownish-red iris. The bill was olive-yellow, with the base of the upper mandible darker and more manifestly olive in tone; the tarsi and toes were brown and the claws grey. By contrast, *T. hauxwelli* differed in having a more obviously demarcated pale throat, a dark brown bill, a bright red iris, and no noticeable eye-ring. Additionally, the head of that species appeared smaller and was obviously less rounded in outline. Consequently, little trouble was experienced with the separation of these two species in the hand, but positive field identification was less straightforward since bill colour and, especially, the existence of an eye-ring, were not easily discerned. Other species similar to *T. haplochrous* are the Cocoa Thrush *T. fumigatus*, which is generally more rufescent than *T. hauxwelli* (Snow 1985, Ridgely & Tudor 1989), occurs widely in Brazil and has been recorded questionably from Santa Cruz department, and the Clay-coloured Thrush *T. grayi* of northern Colombia and central America, which is lighter in colour (personal examination of skins).

The holotype of *T. haplochrous*, an adult female, held in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CM 80224), was described by Todd (1931) as having a brown iris and brownish-black bill. K. C. Parkes (pers. comm.) has informed us that the male (CM 119459), obtained by Steinbach at the same time as the holotype, displays identical hues. With regard to the two males (LSUMZ 36465 and 38084) collected by Steinbach in 1944, O'Neill (1976) comments simply that they did not differ significantly from the aforementioned pair. These descriptions of skins give no hint of the bill of *T. haplochrous* exhibiting olive tones, but in agreement with our observations, notes provided by C. G. Schmitt (pers. comm.) indicate that the distal portions of both upper and lower mandibles of both the male and female obtained near Trinidad displayed a lime-green hue, which characterizes the bill of *T. grayi* too. The base of the upper mandible of the female (held in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; LSUMZ 124796) is described as brownish-olive, whilst that of the lower mandible is given as medium neutral grey in colour; the bill base of the male (LSUMZ 125992) is reported as being fuscous. In the light of these details, it is tempting to speculate that the individual which we trapped was a male, and that both birds acquired by Steinbach in 1918 were not fully mature. Schmitt's notes indicate too that whilst the tarsi and toes of the female concerned were hair brown, those of the male were glaucous in colour. Obviously, it will be necessary to obtain additional information

on bare part colorations before definitive descriptions can be given. Nevertheless, if a *Turdus* sp. showing predominantly brownish upper- and underparts, and an olive-yellow bill, is seen in lowland Bolivia, it should be *T. haplochrous*, although it needs to be cautioned that Snow (1985) has reported that the bill tips of some dried skins of 'hauxwelli-type' thrushes appear greenish.

Measurements (mm) and weight (g) of individual trapped

Wing 124; tail 100; bill (tip to feathers) 17.4; skull 50.5 (to bill tip); tarsus 32. Lengths of primaries (all new) in relation to longest, numbered from inside: p 10 - 66 (+8 primary coverts); p 9 - 15; p 8 - 5; p 7 - 1.5; p 6 wing point; p 5 - 1.5; p 4 - 7; p 3 - 12; p 2 - 16; p 1 - 21. Emarginations (from tip): p 8 48; p 7 40; p 6 36; p 5 30. Slight notching on p 9, p 8 and p 7. Weight 84.

Range extension and conservation implications

Despite there being two other known localities for *T. haplochrous* in Beni, the finding of this species in the EBB represents a range extension (to the north-west) of no less than 150 km. Since the species is fairly cryptic and easily confused with *T. hauxwelli*, it is likely that it has been overlooked previously and that further localities will be discovered in due course. Within the confines of the EBB there are no obvious threats posed to the *várzea* forest in which the species was found. It seems that other than the preservation of such riverine forest, which occurs widely in the lowlands of Bolivia, active conservation measures may not be required urgently at the present time. Further information is required, however, to determine the distribution and habitat requirements of this elusive species more fully.

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the sighting made by the late Theodore A. Parker III: we record our thanks to these people for their most helpful responses to our enquiries.

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Distribution of Blue Crowned Pigeon *Goura cristata* on north Seram

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The Blue Crowned Pigeon *Goura cristata* recently reported from Seram by Kitchener *et al.* (1993) had been stumbled across in a village near the coast. Two years later (August 1993) the author returned to the island to carry out a more systematic investigation of its distribution in the north-central part of Seram. It is pertinent to note that the author was returning to people in villages whom he knew and had visited during previous field trips in 1987, 1990 and 1991 (Edwards *et al.* 1993). Information concerning the wider distribution of *Goura* has recently been published by King & Nijboer (1994).

Coloured photographic prints of the Blue Crowned Pigeon were shown to residents, shopkeepers, forestry guards (PHPA) and logging company personnel from the city of Ambon, and villages on the coast and in the interior of north-central Seram (Fig. 1). The respondents were asked if they recognised the bird, to indicate where they thought it came from, then asked if the bird was present on Seram and where it might be found on the island.